

“Nations should have memories.”

-- Frederick Douglass, 1866



John Adams to Abigail Adams, July 3, 1776

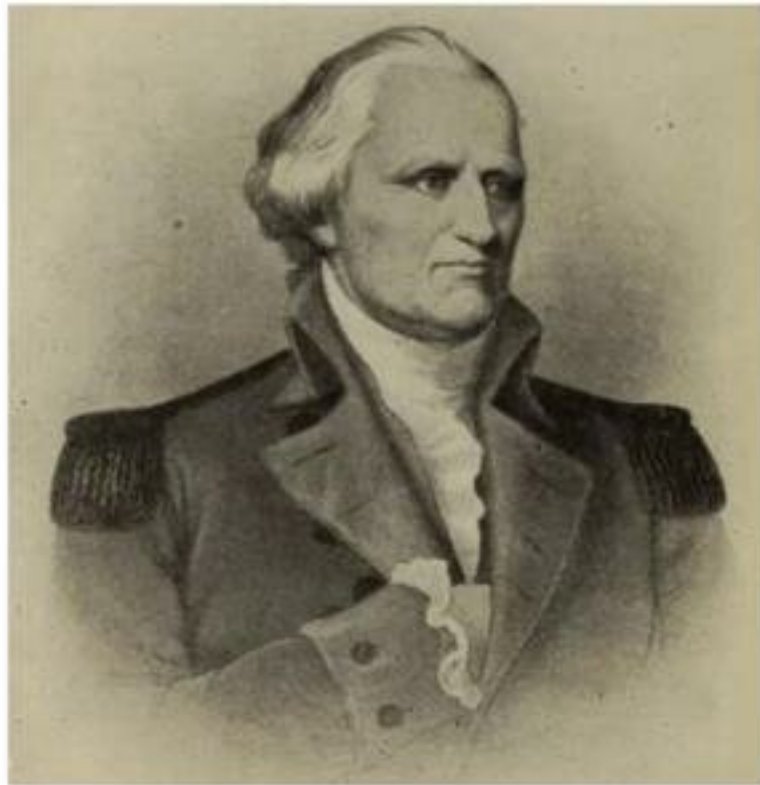


“The Second Day of July 1776 will be the most memorable Epoque, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding Generations as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

“Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof,” 1751



"As I was then, I am now –

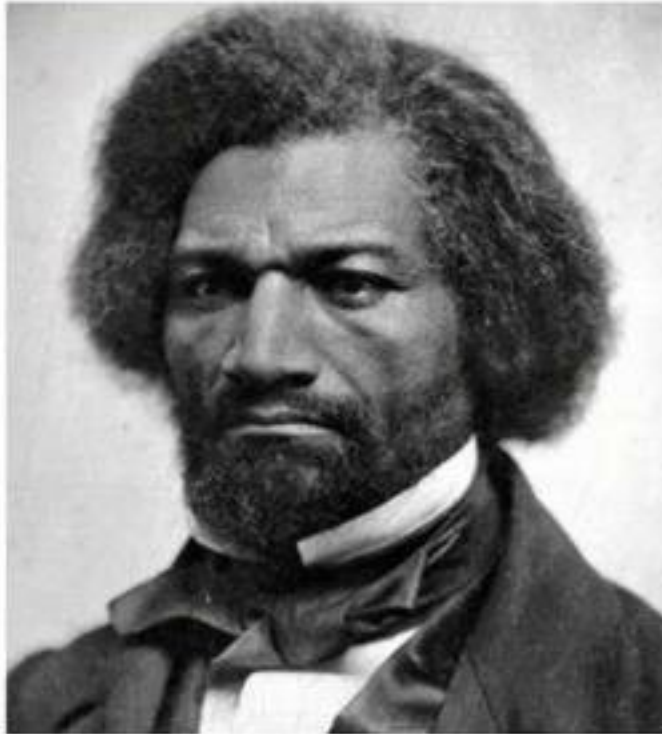


– The friend of the equal rights of men, of representative Democracy, of Republicanism, of the Declaration of Independence, the great charter of our national rights – and of course the friend of the indissoluble union and constitution of the States...

P.S. Live free or die..."

– General John Stark, 1809

Frederick Douglass, 1852



"This Fourth of July is yours, not mine.
You may rejoice, I must mourn."

October 12, 1992, Berkeley, Cal.



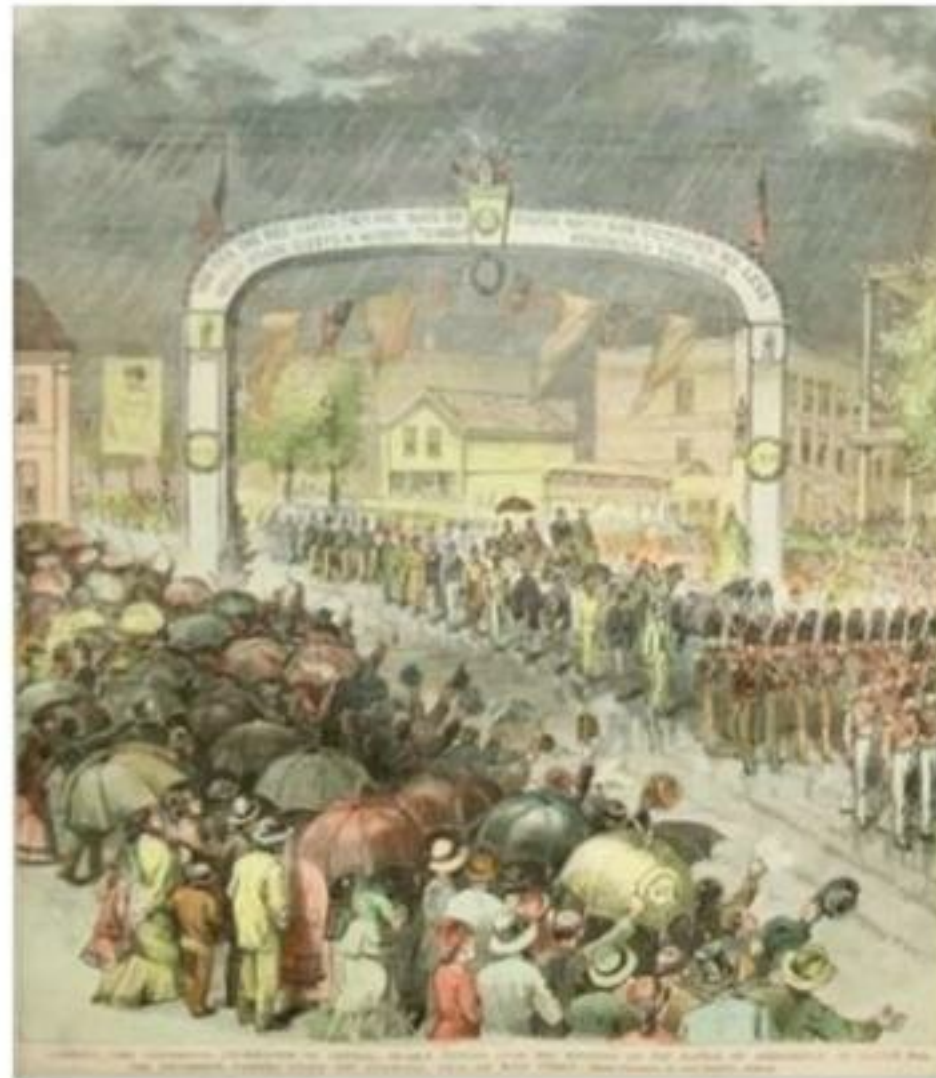
“Centennialism Run Mad”

Burlington Free Press, Jan. 21, 1876

Centennialism Run Mad. •

We are surrounded on every side by evidences that this is the *Centennial* year. We put on our *centennial* boots and wear our *centennial* necktie, eat from dishes of *centennial* ware and read the *Centennial* Gazette. We smoke *centennial* cigars lighted with *centennial* matches. We look at our *centennial* calendar for the day of the month, and find out when the sun rises—consulting our *centennial* almanac. We receive *centennial* communications written on *centennial* note paper with *centennial* pens dipped in *centennial* ink. We attend *centennial* tea parties, purchase *centennial* relics and admire ladies dressed in *centennial* robes. How long human nature can stand up under this load is doubtful, for we live daily in expectation of being assured by the poultryman that he has a *centennial* turkey, which he will send home in a *centennial* basket for a *centennial* dinner. Before this *centennial* year is departed we shall all learn how noble a thing it is to suffer and be strong.

Centennial arch, Bennington, 1877



Tenting grounds, Bennington, 1877



Bennington Battle Monument, 1891



Centennial arch, Bennington, 1891



Champlain Tercentennial, 1909

VERGENNES, ADDISON COUNTY, VT., THURSDAY, JULY 1,

THE GREAT CELEBRATION

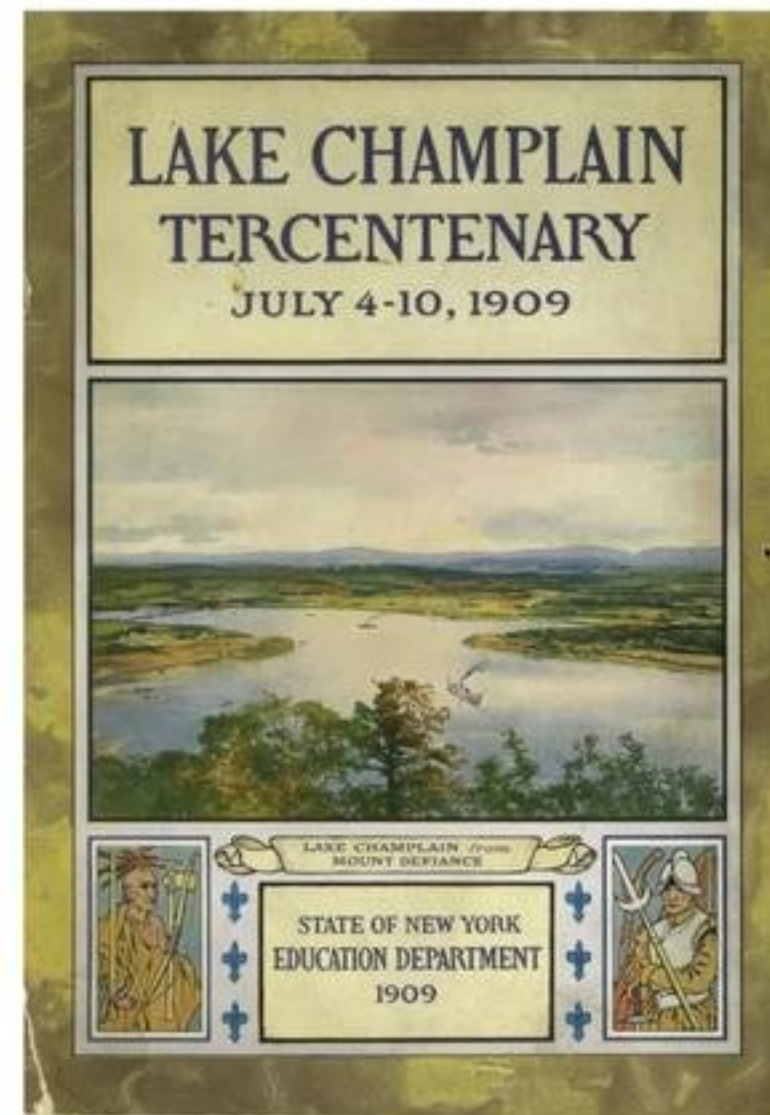
The Tercentenary of the Discovery of Lake Champlain at
Vergennes, Saturday July 3, '09

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM

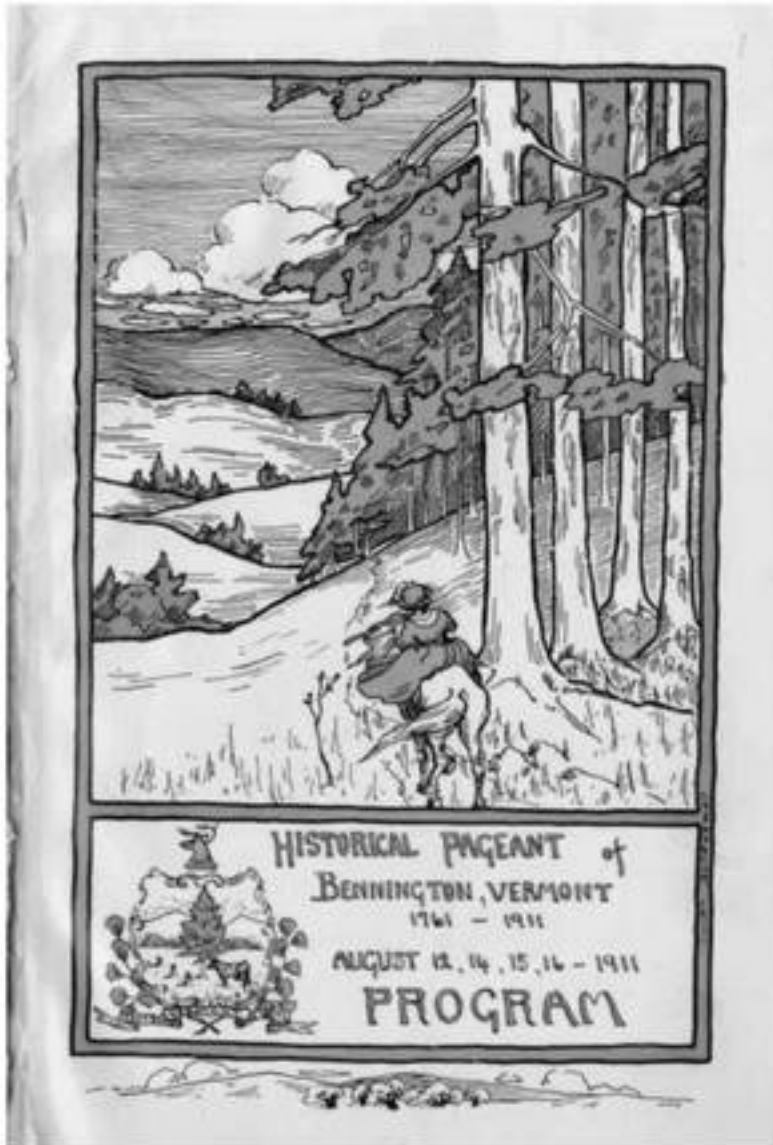
The Great Parade and Pageants, Motor Boat Races, Decorations, Ball Games, etc., etc.

Given good weather, and the great Tercentenary Celebration at Vergennes next Saturday, will surpass anything ever seen in this county.

Everyone has taken hold in a united effort to make this first big celebration of the tercentenary a most magnificent success.



Settlers and Tourists as Pilgrims, Bennington, 1911



1761

1911



A Wireless To YOU

"Back to old Bennington's
beachcombs
Where our jolliest joys
we found,
I send this word to let
you know
That the whole bunch is
Homeward Bound."

They're On Their Way

Coming from far, near and elsewhere. Multitudes and more of good old friends and relatives. Hundreds and hundreds of joyously expectant visitors all eager to share with us in the pleasures of the Pageant and the other events of the lively days ahead.

PUT AWAY YOUR OLD GREY BONNET
GET A SMART NEW BIB AND TUCKER

"Court Minuet"

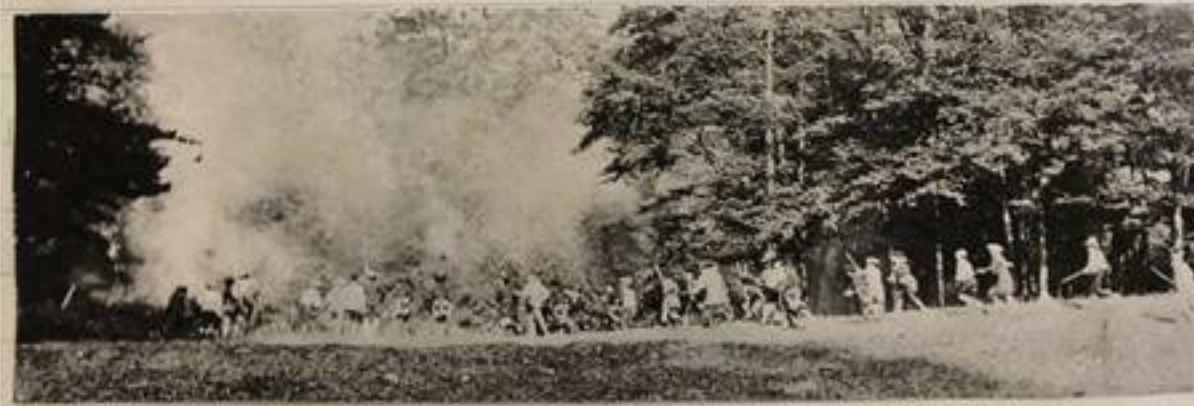
Bennington Historical Pageant, 1911



“Colonel Baum’s Indians fleeing down the hill,” 1911



Colonel Baum's Indians fleeing down the hill.



The Battle.

“Indian Group,” 1911



Bennington Evening Banner, Aug. 17, 1927

THOUSANDS FLOCK TO MONUMENT FOR FINAL EXERCISES OF SESQUI



JAMES C. COLGATE

Head of the Bennington Celebration Organization Whose Financial Interest and Guiding Judgment Constituted One of the Dominating Factors in the



JOHN SPARGO

Leading Inspiration of Vermont Sesqui-centennial Observance Culminating in

Picturesque Scene at Old Bennington as Brilliantly Uniformed Participants in Parade Stand at Attention With Sabres and Bayonets Flashing; Crowd so Large Many Could Not Hear Speeches.

CARS IN SWARMS

home of justice, liberty and brotherhood. Defend it against every peril which may arise from within and from without, and may it be increasingly a blessing to all mankind.

"On this great day we fervently remember at the Throne of Grace the President of the United States. We thank thee for his life and record. We praise thee that the strength of the hills of Vermont is his aim. We ask that thou wouldst guard him from all danger, and in thine own good time bring him back to his native state and to his grateful neighbors. All this we ask, trusting in thine infinite mercy, Amen."

Following the invocation Mr. Colgate expressed the regret of the people that President Calvin Coolidge could not be present, but "he did not choose to come." He then read the following let-

Bicentennial, 1976



“Vermont Two Transportation System”

State **Bicentennial:** Hopes All Riding On Train Plan

Bicentennial

Grants

By NICK MARRO

SAXTONS RIVER — The success of Vermont's **Bicentennial** celebration hinges on the success or failure of the Vermont Two Transportation System, which is already on shaky ground because of severe financial problems.

The transportation system is Vermont's only statewide project, and

The state's **Bicentennial** Commission will soon begin to distribute more than \$100,000 in federal **bicentennial** funds to 35 Vermont towns whose **bicentennial** projects have been approved by the commission.

The grant is for one year by the state. The delay of the federal money was delayed

eamtown. are required to re- that Salmon was a witness in Vermont's

Vermont Living

The Weekly Rutland Herald and The Weekly Towns-Village July 4, 1976

Social

A Rekindling Of Vermont Pride



East Montpelier residents joined together to reinforce the roof and walls of their historical "Old Brick Church." The brick was originally laid with little reinforcement and all the original bricks were used for the renovation of the building. (Herald photo)

By ANDREW NEMETHY

For several years, America has been preparing for this weekend: The Fourth of July, 1976, the 200th birthday of our country.

heritage, in the history of the state of Vermont.

In the archive in "Two Vermont Histories" a story by

the effort has depended on volunteers and contribution of time. Out of this, Herald sees a new sense of community and local spirit, as well as an awareness that government isn't the answer to all the problems.

The range of projects has been astounding. Wallingford decided to mount and preserve the old high school brass band at a new park site. South Hero sought establishment of a new town museum. Old school houses in towns such as Fayston and Georgia and churches in Starksfield and Gratton and East Montpelier underwent restoration.

Putney began work on development of a state museum. Montpelier received funds for restoration of the pipe organ at College Hall, and Bethel received funds to rebuild its landmark eagle weather-vane atop town hall.

Many projects were meant not to be observed but used. Bicycle paths in Bennington and Woodstock and park renovations in St. Albans, Rutland and Plainfield are examples. The Town of Hardwick has restored its gracious old town hall and installed a wood heating system to make it usable all year round.

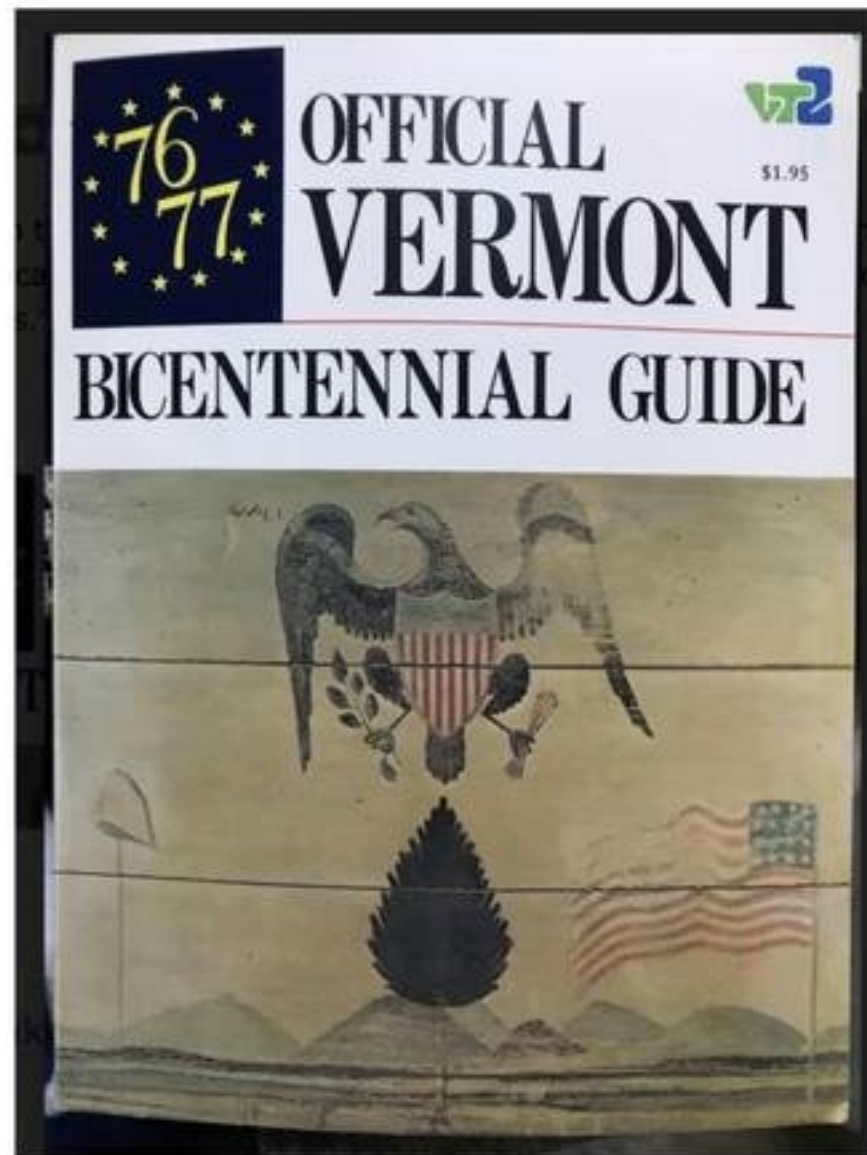
Covered bridges have been restored in Weatherfield, Randolph and West Fairlee, and a farm equipment museum started in Arlington. In Essex Junction, a unique kind of museum where children are encouraged to touch and handle objects — the reverse of the norm — was given \$8,000 by the state Bicentennial Commission.

In all the Commission has doled out more than \$200,000 in Bicentennial project funds to local communities and some statewide groups in the last year and a half.

As a general rule, says the new Bicentennial Commission Director Nancy Knox, the commission "hasn't funded things that aren't going to last." About half of the \$200,000, which has had to be matched by funds on the local level, has gone to restorations. But some of it has also gone to projects that move, sing and talk. Grants for writing/drama plays by Joe Grisham, Vermont history as part of the Windham in summer and for the World of Mounting traditional New England music, fed.

— Vermont program a common theme was through dis-

17 of 112



Battle reenactment, Bennington, 1977

Sunny
 Sunny and pleasant today highs upper 60s and 70s. Fair and cool tonight lows mid 40s to mid 50s. Sunny and breezy Tuesday with increasing afternoon cloudiness. Highs mid 70s to low 80s.
 Sunset 7:54, sunrise 6.

Bennington Banner

Bennington, Vermont Monday, August 15, 1977 Weekly founded 1841, Daily 1903 20 Cents

Pageantry, crowds mark 200th

Battle re-enactment wins cheers of 10,000

By ROB WOOLMINGTON
 WAR BECAME a pageant in Bennington Saturday, and history was re-created as a spectacular sport.
 Gen. John Stark's homegrown-clad army routed the well-appointed British and mercenary troops of Lt. Col. Frederick Baum on the 200th anniversary of the

people from all the Northwestern states played the roles of fighting men and camp followers, and their encampment at the Vermont Veterans Home was the scene of much merrymaking, both before and after the battle.
 Only minor injuries marred the re-enactment, which was staged with

The biggest parade ever draws record onlookers

By ELIZABETH DWYER
 Firemen in red suspenders, firemen in red coats, blue coats, even in green skirts; millions of dollars worth of shiny fire trucks; bands playing traditional marching songs; high-swinging drums and bugle corps; floats depicting past, present and future. Name it and you could find it

strategic spots, including Pelham Square and the intersection of School and Main at the reviewing stand in front of First Vermont Bank. The crowd there was so heavy, elbow to elbow, that it is reported some officials perched in all as the stand had trouble getting through to their places.
 The crowd started to gather early to

Gov. and Ms. Snelling, Bennington, 1977



“1st white child born in Vermont,”
Bennington, 1977



Indian, Bennington, 1977



USPS Vermont Bicentennial stamp, 1991,
by Sabra Field



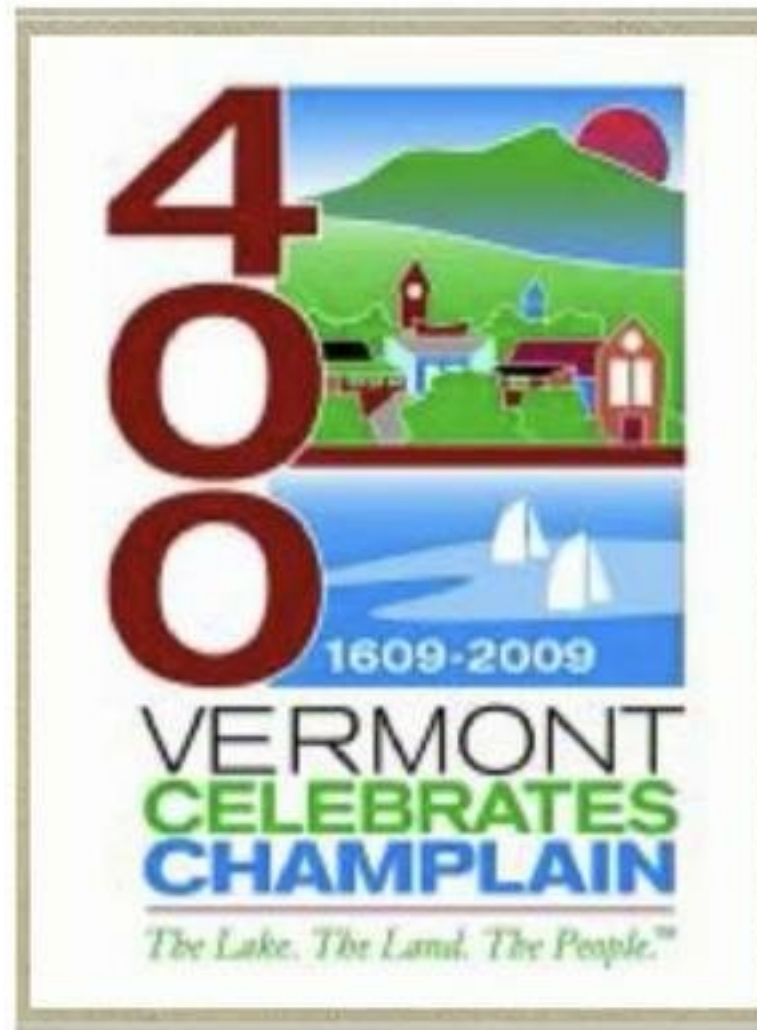
Bicentennial license plate, 1991



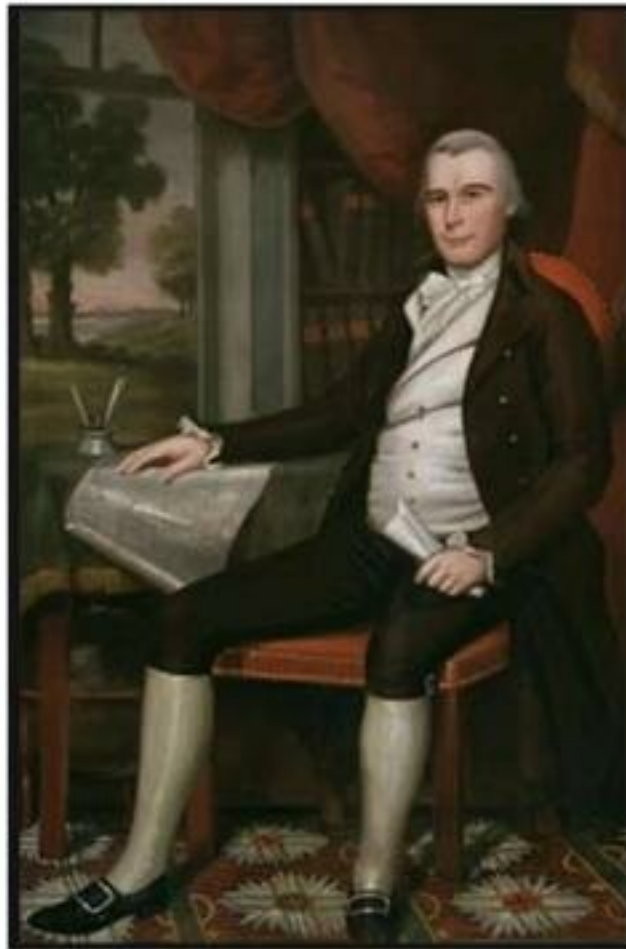
“Vermont Bicentennial Official Beer”



Champlain Quadricentennial, 2009



Judge Noah Smith and family, 1798



commemorations presentation

Home Insert Draw Design Transitions Animations Slide Show Review View

Play from Start Play from Current Slide Presenter View Custom Show Set Up Slide Show Hide Slide Rehearse Timings Record Slide Show Read Slides Updated Use Timings Play Narrations Show Media Controls

3 "Thomas Henry Stoughton of the original and only 'Whitcomb House' (1811)"

4 "The House of the Future"

5 Frederick Douglass, 1862

6 October 12, 1862, Berkeley, Ca.

7 "Centennial Park, 1877"



8 Centennial arch, Berkeley, 1877

9 Spring grounds, Berkeley, 1877

10 Berkeley battle grounds, 1877

11 Centennial arch, Berkeley, 1877

Judge Noah Smith and family, 1798



Click to add notes

Slide 30 of 30 English (United States)

holly and freedom and children together on wall.jpg 3,897x2,358 478x549

holly hop dion.jpg 2,048x1,536

dad xrd.pdf freedom on West Mountain.jpg 4,032x3,024

holly.jpg 2,112x2,816

Screen Shot 2021-05-02.jpg 1,248x1,696

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benn battle book 106 items

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brushing up for centennial 1,216x1,228

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street fight 1,604x1,236

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Hon degree ceremony 8 items

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The Dance Must Follow... .guy.epub

dance music 8 items

patterson 3 items

250th Anniversary Commission

May 26, 2021



States with Official Commissions – at this stage

- Vermont
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Kentucky
- Virginia
- Michigan
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Alabama
- North Dakota
- Maryland

States with Pending Legislation for Commissions

- Kansas
- Massachusetts
- Nebraska
- New York
- Rhode Island
- Texas
- West Virginia

Vermont's Collaboration with Other States and Organizations – at this stage

- New York
- New Jersey
- Federal 250 America Commission
- Congress of Revolutionary Roundtables

Names and Logos of the Commissions or Committees

- America 250 (federal commission)
- Revolution NJ
- Revolutionary NY
- America 250 PA
- Revolution 250 (Massachusetts)
- 250 NC America (North Carolina)



Missions of the Commissions and Anniversary

250 America:

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. We're here to honor and celebrate and we want every American to join in. Over the next six years, we're working closely with citizens, communities, state and local governments, and proud partners from sea to shining sea to make sure that American 250 is momentous and meaningful for all.

New Jersey:

Revolution NJ will advance the role that history plays in public discourse, community engagement, education, tourism, and scholarship in New Jersey. Through a series of initiatives that explore the history of the American Revolution, its context, and its legacy, Revolution NJ will galvanize diverse audiences statewide into embracing the enduring value and relevance of history.

Strategic Framework Examples:

Revolution New Jersey:

Revolution NJ will engage diverse audiences to exploring New Jersey's role in America's history, drawing lessons from the past to apply to the present and future.

RNJ is designed to

- **Provide a statewide framework** that will encourage collaboration and cooperation between the many aspects of the commemoration.
- **Support organizations all over the state** in preparing for, planning, and executing initiatives that will support the goals of the commemoration.
- **Originate relevant programs and inspire grassroots participation** in the commemoration, encouraging history organizations, schools, civic groups, counties, municipalities, and others to generate programs and events.

Tennessee Semiquincentennial Commission

- **To lead a comprehensive and inclusive commemoration** of the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding;
- **To listen** to Tennesseans, Tennessee Communities, and elected officials regarding wishes for official commemorations;
- To ensure that projects, programs, and materials are established to embrace and **include the youth** of Tennessee in the 250th anniversary commemorations;
- **To partner with the state's tourism industry and local businesses** to ensure a positive economic impact across Tennessee; and
- **To work closely with Tennessee's outstanding heritage organizations** to support their projects, programs, and publications for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and Declaration of Independence.

Key Lessons from Other States

- ❖ Scholarship of the Revolutionary era **has moved beyond** generals, soldiers, battles, leaders, and military and intellectual history **to a greater focus:**
 - ✓ on stories of African Americans, Native Americans, women, and other underrepresented people;
 - ✓ on questions of land and water;
 - ✓ on social and cultural history;
 - ✓ on the complexity and divisiveness of the era; and
 - ✓ on its global context.
- ❖ We must directly **address the process of creating history itself and of myth-making.** We must be transparent about who creates historical narratives, the interpretive choices they make in doing so, and the research and sources behind their choices.
- ❖ Avoid viewing the Revolution and “Founding Fathers” in terms of “good” vs. “bad.”
- ❖ History has been used to foster inequity and injustice; this is an opportunity to **use history to foster equity and justice.**

Sample Commission/Celebration Goals

- Tell a diverse and inclusive story about America's past that invites participation from all
- Encourage the growth of capacity at history organizations so that they are better able to attract, engage, and serve visitors, both during and after the anniversary
- Promote heritage tourism in and to the state in a way that increases its positive impact on economic and community development
- Elevate the value placed on history education in our K-12 schools and universities
- Demonstrate how understanding the complexity of our history helps us to respond to the present and prepare for the future
- increase public and private funding for history

Key Themes of Revolution NJ: meant to include New Jerseyans of varied backgrounds, identities, experiences, and perspectives to find a way into the anniversary and to consider it critically—while growing comfortable with the innate ambiguity of history and the process by which history is told.

Exclusion/Inclusion

Property and Sovereignty

Revolutionary Ideals

Political
Participation

Movement of
People

New Jersey as
Battleground

The Historical
Process

Vermont's Executive Order Directives

...to plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities to be held in Vermont in commemoration of the historic events that preceded, and area associated with the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution [and founding of Vermont]

...to coordinate, review, and promote programs and activities through the state relating to the American Revolutionary War, in particular Vermont's involvement therein, to deepen the knowledge and understanding of this formative period of American history and how it has shaped and continues to shape who we are as a people, a state and a nation

Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission To Do List

- Commission Name
- Mission Statement
- Goals and Strategies
- Toolkits for planning events and programs
- Roles: vice chair, committee chairs
- Committees/Subcommittees
 - Logo and directives for use
 - Events and Programs
 - Additional Funding
 - Coordination with Agency of Education and educators
 - Lists of historical information, books, museums, etc.
- Next...
- ...And...
- ...Then...
- Meeting Dates Schedule